

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9677

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EO 11652: NA

TAGDC ELAB, CO

SUBJ: GAO DRAFT REPORT "UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO DEVELOP  
FREE LABOR MOVEMENTS IN LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES"

REF: STATE 163877

1. SUBJECT REPORT, CHAPTER FIVE DEALING WITH COLOMBIA,  
GENERALLY ACCURATE ALTHOUGH SUPERFICIAL. GAO'S INVESTIGATION  
SUFFERED FROM INABILITY OF GAO REPRESENTATIVE TO SPEAK  
WITH TWO MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE E  
M S. REPS IN COLOMBIA WHO WERE  
UNAVAILABLE (BOGOTA 9802, NOV 4, 1974).

2. SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS FOLLOW: P. 28, PARA 2, JAJUIT  
INFLUENCE IN UTC HAS DECREASED APPRECIABLY IN RECENT YEARS;  
PARA 3, TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION OF COLOMBIAN WORKERS  
(CSTC) HAS INCREASED ITS MEMBERSHIP, ALTHOUGH SUBSTANTIALLY  
AS STATED IN THE GAO REPORT IS AN OVERSTATEMENT.  
MANY OF THE SO-CALLED NEW AFFILIATES WERE COMMUNIST-LED  
AND WERE WAITING FOR CSTC LEGAL STATUS BEFORE AFFILIATING;  
P. 30, "EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES" AIFLD ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED  
TO BOTH DEMOCRATIC CONFEDERATIONS AND TO THEIR FARMWORKERS  
FEDERATIONS. NO DIRECT ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED TO LOCAL  
UNIONS. THE ASSISTANCE IS FOR BASIC INSTRUCTIONS AS WELL  
AS FOR HIGHER LEVEL COURSES; P. 32, "OBSERVATIONS ON  
EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAM"- THE FACT THAT "TY LABOR MOVEMENT  
APPEARS ADVANCED AND COMPETENT", WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT  
THE AIFLD PROGRAM HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE. BOTH DEMOCRATIC LABOR  
ORGANIZATIONS HAVE TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT THE AIFLD ASSISTANCE  
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HAS BEEN IMPORTANT. THE CRITICISM OR DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE

UTC HAS BEEN THAT AIFLD HAS NOT PROVIDED ENOUGH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND THAT TOO MUCH OF AIFLD'S COLOMBIAN MONEY IS DEVOTED TO AIFLD'S OWN ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURES. THE PROBLEM OF MEASURING AIFLD ACHIEVEMENT IS AN OLD ONE. SOMETIMES, AS IN THE COLOMBIAN CASE OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, EMPLOYER OPPOSITION, LIMITED FINANCES OF UNIOS, AND COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES, THE MERE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF A DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT IS A SUCCESS STORY. MANY FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO THE "LACK OF AGGRESSIVENESS" OF THE PART OF THE TWO CONFEDERATIONS RECEIVING AIFLD ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING A PATERNALISTIC SOCIETY, HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, LIMITED FINANCES (UNIONS CANNOT AFFORD TO STRIKE FOR VERY LONG) AND A TRADITIONAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN SUCCESSIVE NATIONAL FRONT GOVERNMENTS AND THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENTS, WHICH PROVIDED FOR GOC PROTECTION FOR THE DEMOCRATIC AGAINST THE COMMUNIST LED MOVEMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR LABOR PEACE. THIS HAS BROKEN DOWN WITH GOC RECOGNITION OF THE CSTC. FORMER PRESIDENT LLERAS RECENTLY COMMENTED THAT THE LOPEZ ADMINISTRATION SHOULD HAVE BETTER PREPARED THE DEMOCRATS FOR THE CHANGE IN RELATIONSHIPS. HE IMPLIED THAT THE COMMUNIST SUCCESSES IN TAKING OVER A FEW FORMERLY DEMOCRATIC UNIONS WAS IN PART THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PRESIDENT LOPEZ. P.33, PARA 1, THE UTC HAS BEGUN A PROGRAM OF IDEOLOGICAL EDUCATION AMONG ITS MEMBERS, PRECISELY BECAUSE UTC LEADERS BELIEVE THEIR MEMBERS ARE IDEOLOICIGALLY ILL-PREPARED TO WITHSTAND COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA; PARA 2, THE EMBASSY AND THE AIFLD REP AGREE THAT ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ARE TOO HIGH. HOWEVER, THE AIFLD COLOMBIAN STAFF NOW CONSISTS OF 8 RATHER THAN 10, AND ONE OF THESE IS THE CTC EDUCATION COORDINATOR; PARA 3, EMBASSY LABOR OFFICER HAS ADDRESSED U. S. BUSINESSMEN'S GROUPS ON THE COLOMBIAN LABOR SCENE. HE HAS ALSO VISITED U. S. OWNED BUSINESS AND DISCUSSED THE LABOR SITUATION WITH COMPANY MANAGERS. THESE BUSINESSMEN HAVE NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING VIS-A-VIS U. S. LABOR PROGRAM POSSIBILITIES. VAKY

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